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B. M. Little (Mo.), Supt., Lexington.
 A. S. Hurt (Mo.), Prin., Sugar Creek.
 E. M. Sipple (Mo.), Supt., Moberly.
 Ralph W. Noyer (Mo.), Instr. Public
 Spk., Kirksville State Normal.
 Melvin Croan (Kan.), Head Coml. De-
 partment, Excelsior Springs.
 and the writer.

The Missouri brothers are live wires. Here's hoping that we may soon have another Alumni Chapter in the state of Missouri. They have it now almost excepting in name, and we may expect some constructive work from the Missouri brothers.

A. J. M.

St. Louis Alumni

The Phi Delta Kappa men of St. Louis got together last year and organized an Alumni Chapter. We immediately canvassed our common needs in the school work of St. Louis and began co-operative study. In the December Number of the "Elementary School Journal" will appear the tentative result of our first year's work on a writing scale. Besides continuing the work with the writing scale, we are undertaking a study of our spelling work this year, using the "Measuring Scale for Ability in Spelling" pub-

lished by the Russell Sage Foundation. Each of our members is also engaged on one or more revision committees appointed by Superintendent Blewett last year to revise the course of study. Nine of our members are school principals, one is a high school teacher and one is Secretary to the Superintendent. We represent the University of Missouri, the University of Indiana, the University of Chicago, and Teachers College of Columbia.

GEO. R. JOHNSON, Sec.

California

The first meeting of California Chapter was marked by the return to the University, the smallest number of active men since the beginning of the Chapter. There were only ten active members, each of whom shares in the work of the Chapter. On November twentieth ten candidates were initiated and one honorary member enrolled. Professor Alexis F. Lange, head of the Department of Education, and of the School of Education, had this last honor conferred upon him. About forty attended the banquet. The initiation was the best ever, Brother Watts playing the pipe-organ during the ceremony.

The chapter is busily planning the work of its Service Bureau to aid the men in the field. It is also working out a financial system explained elsewhere in the magazine. Meetings are held every Saturday and are preceded by a luncheon.

ARTHUR P. WATT, Sec.

Solving the Financial Problem.

GEORGE KYTE, Pres. California Chapter.

Our national organization of the past has been very imperfect, because of three reasons. It lacked necessary centralized authority; its sources of finance were few and so insufficient that our National Fraternity appeared to be a decidedly cheap affair; and there was no official organ, a national magazine. Very progressive strides were made by the last National Council meeting to remedy the existing conditions. It is now the duty of the Executive Committee and the Chapters to take the final steps in establishing these things as they should be. With this idea in mind, I am presenting here the California Chapter's scheme for solving the financial problem in so far as it will be affected by a heavy National assessment. During the past few months,

we have received inquiries from other chapters in regard to our plan, and I take great pleasure in answering them through the medium of our National organ. It may prove helpful to others.

Ever since the first number of men began active work in the field the Chapter has received letters from them, suggesting that some scheme be adopted whereby alumni members could help the Fraternity financially. Believing that the opportunity was at hand, the active members of the Chapter submitted to the alumni the following proposed amendment to the by-laws.

"The regular yearly dues for each member in the field shall be \$2.00, payable in two installments of \$1.00, due on January 8, and September 1, or as soon after as convenient."

The justice of such a measure and its value to a local chapter are very obvious. Of the many reasons for such a measure, here are several important ones:

1. A permanent tie is formed between the Fraternity and the men in the field.
2. Such a definite obligation on all establishes the opening wedge for cooperative effort in educational work.
3. It distributes the financial burdens among a larger number of men, each of whom then has a lasting interest, and plays an active part in maintaining the welfare of the Fraternity.
4. It means perfecting and systematizing organization in order to increase the value of the Fraternity to the individual.

Many other reasons for this financial tie can be made, but limited space compels me to present that which California believes to be the central theme back of it. That is to say, this plan solves National finance for them. Financing the National organization is only indirectly a Chapter affair, and directly one in which every member of Phi Delta Kappa should share. If every member paid annual dues of one dollar, and our National Council met biennially, the money problem would be settled forever. Think of our membership which is rapidly increasing beyond fifteen hundred. Together with the other sources of revenue, we can readily see that a surplus would accumulate, the need of which was so evident at the last Council meeting. Delegates' and officers' expenses, directory, national magazine, and other necessary finances would soon become incidental expenditures, easily paid.

How did our proposal appeal to the men in the field? We felt that the success of such an undertaking depended on an almost unanimous approval—and we got it. There was not one dissenting vote registered. Some brothers sent their dues in with their vote. Our plan has met with immediate success. If in the future, our national organization should provide for annual dues from each member, to be collected through the chapter to which the member belongs, California Chapter will be prepared to meet such requirement.

Texas

The Texas Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa has sustained a marked depletion in its membership since last session. It is one of those unique cases, however, in which the loser gains. For the very aim of the order makes active membership a means rather than the end. At least two of the sides of the delta, research, service, leadership—two of the main purposes of the order are best attained by those who take a life long leave of absence on a mission of service and leadership among their fellows. It is hoped

by systematic correspondence to keep research alive also. This noticeable proportion of our former active members are without exception now occupying places of honor and trust in the private and public schools of the state, or have been called to other states to fill places of enlarged opportunity. The unselfish professional spirit of the order is thus permeating and leavening quietly and yet effectively our educational system. This to them is our greeting and "God speed."